

Expert says technolog



Leslie Pengelly

By CHUCK RAASCH
Argus-Leader Staff Writer

Animals, not man, must benefit the most from the rapidly advancing technology in wildlife management, a national wildlife expert said Tuesday.

Speaking at the Pecora IV Symposium in Sioux Falls, Dr. Leslie Pengelly, president of The Wildlife Society, painted a rather grim picture of the future of wildlife on this planet.

But Pengelly, a professor at the University of Montana, said that man's technology can help wildlife species maintain a place in the world.

Pengelly, nationally known for his writing and appearances before wildlife groups, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon Tuesday as the fourth annual symposium opened at the Downtown Holiday Inn. Gov. Harvey Wollman and Mayor Rick

Knoke spoke at opening ceremonies Tuesday morning.

As many as 300 international experts are expected at this year's meeting, which this year is focusing on the role of remote sensing in managing wildlife. It is being sponsored by government agencies.

The symposium continued today with a series of technical sessions, presentations and speeches. On Thursday, a 1:30 p.m. technical session will feature three prominent national figures in the area of wildlife management and remote sensing, including Robert Herbst, an assistant secretary of the federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

Symposium promoters said the Thursday afternoon session will be open to the public. It will be held at the international ballroom of the Downtown Holiday Inn.

In his speech Tuesday, Pengelly compared man's efforts to sustain

GUS-LEADER

1D Wednesday, October 11, 1978

y can help wildlife

wildlife with a party of people stranded on an arctic ice floe.

"I get the feeling, like those on the ice floe, that we're paddling like mad but the tide is taking us the other way," he said.

He said that since World War II, man's technology has allowed for wildlife to be exploited in countless ways.

"...one could recite a litany of evils— echolators to track down whales, explosive harpoons, processing factories built into diesel-powered ships, purse seines that entrap porpoises, scope-sighted, high-powered rifles, huge stripping machines used in coal extraction, and others," he said.

And Pengelly said man's advancing civilization is squeezing out wildlife in all parts of the world.

Each year, a million acres are taken for road construction, he said. Another countless millions are being

spoiled by municipal and industrial pollution, and man's neglect and the destruction of wildlife habitat area is threatening many species.

"While biologists put up nest boxes, trap skunks and plant food patches, the dam builders flood whole valleys, agriculturalists drain swamps, wipe out hedgerows and apply new pesticides and herbicides," Pengelly said.

But Pengelly noted that satellite technology has also aided wildlife, through such functions as animal tracking, providing information on endangered species, mapping vegetation, and allowing for the survey of large land areas in short periods of time.

He called for emphasis in "technethics"— a term he defined as "the responsible use of science, technology and ethics in a society shaped by technology."

Man, Pengelly suggested, must

also have international cooperation in managing wildlife. He said it does no good for one country to focus its efforts in helping to sustain a species when another country is doing nothing to help in the effort.

"Maybe biology can bring countries together where politics hasn't," Pengelly said.

During an interview following his speech, Pengelly said that in many areas of the United States, wildlife has all but vanished.

"If you double the number of animals in an area, but then cut that area in half, you're not going to gain anything," he said of man's advancing civilization.

In his speech, Pengelly quoted the late wildlife writer Aldo Leopold as saying that wildlife "still yields us pleasure for leisure hours, but we try to reap that pleasure by modern machinery and thus destroy part of its value."